Amendments to the Claims:

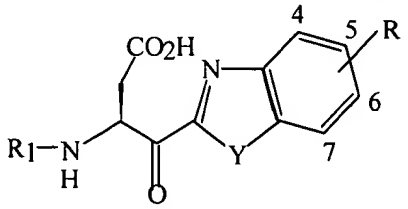
This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1-101 (Canceled).

102. (Original) A compound represented by the formula:

or



wherein the ring is optionally substituted with one or more R groups, preferably 0, 1 or 2; and wherein:

R_1 is R_5-$(A)_p$-;

R_5 is selected from the group consisting of:
-H,
-Ar_1,
-CO-Ar_1,
-SO_2-Ar_1,
-R_9,
-CO-R_9,
-CO-O-R_9,
-SO_2-R_9,

$$-CO-N\begin{matrix}/Ar_1\\ \backslash R_{10},\end{matrix}$$

$$-SO_2-N\begin{matrix}/Ar_1\\ \backslash R_{10},\end{matrix}$$

$$-CO-N\begin{matrix}/R_9\\ \backslash R_{10},\end{matrix}$$ and

$$-SO_2-N\begin{matrix}/R_9\\ \backslash R_{10};\end{matrix}$$

each A is independently selected from the group consisting of any α-amino acid;

p is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

Y is

-O-,

-S- or

-NH; and

R is:

-H,

-O-C_{1-6} alkyl,

-NH(C_{1-6} alkyl),

-N(C_{1-6} alkyl)$_2$,

-S-C_{1-6} alkyl,

-C_{1-6} alkyl, or

-Q_2;

each R_9 is a C_{1-6} straight or branched alkyl group optionally singly or multiply substituted by -OH, -F, or =O and optionally substituted with one Ar_1 group;

each R_{10} is independently selected from the group consisting of -H or a C_{1-6} straight or branched alkyl group;

each T_1 is independently selected from the group consisting of:

-CH=CH-,

-O-,

-S-,

-SO-,

-SO_2-,

$-NR_{10}-$,

$-NR_{10}-CO-$,

$-CO-$,

$-O-CO-$,

$-CO-O-$,

$-CO-NR_{10}-$,

$-O-CO-NR_{10}-$,

$-NR_{10}-CO-O-$,

$-NR_{10}-CO-NR_{10}-$,

$-SO_2-NR_{10}-$,

$-NR_{10}-SO_2-$, and

$-NR_{10}-SO_2-NR_{10}-$,

each Ar_1 is a cyclic group independently selected from the set consisting of an aryl group which contains 6, 10, 12, or 14 carbon atoms and between 1 and 3 rings, a cycloalkyl group which contains between 3 and 15 carbon atoms and between 1 and 3 rings, said cycloalkyl group being optionally benzofused, and a heterocycle group containing between 5 and 15 ring atoms and between 1 and 3 rings, said heterocycle group containing at least one heteroatom group selected from -O-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, =N-, and -NH-, said heterocycle group optionally containing one or more double bonds, said heterocycle group optionally comprising one or more aromatic rings, and said cyclic group optionally being singly or multiply substituted by $-NH_2$, $-CO_2H$, -Cl, -F, -Br, -I, $-NO_2$, -CN, =O, -OH,

-perfluoro C_{1-3} alkyl, O
/ \
CH_2, or $-Q_1$;
\ /
O

each Q_1 is independently selected from the group consisting of:

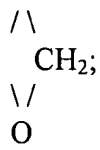
$-Ar_1$

$-R_9$,

$-T_1-R_9$, and

$-(CH_2)_{1,2,3}-T_1-R_9$;

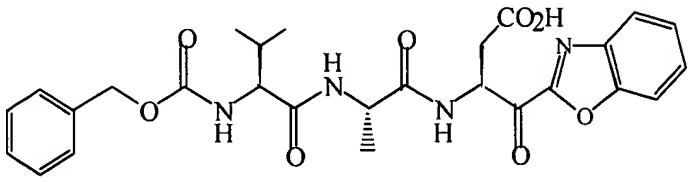
each Q_2 is independently selected from the group consisting of -OH, $-NH_2$, $-CO_2H$, -Cl, -F, -Br, -I, $-NO_2$, -CN, $-CF_3$, and



provided that when $-Ar_1$ is substituted with a Q_1 group which comprises one or more additional $-Ar_1$ groups, said additional $-Ar_1$ groups are not substituted with Q_1.

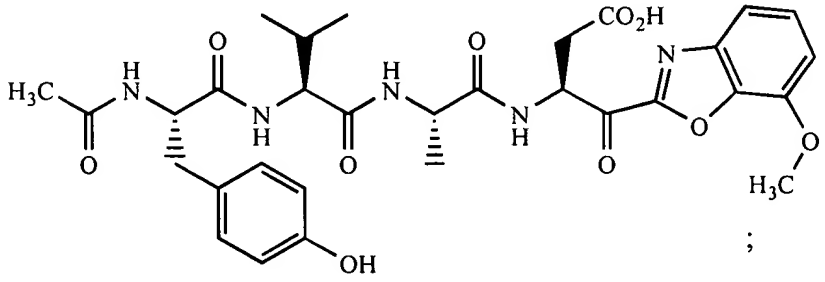
103. (Original) A compound according to claim 102 selected from the group consisting of:

(Q)



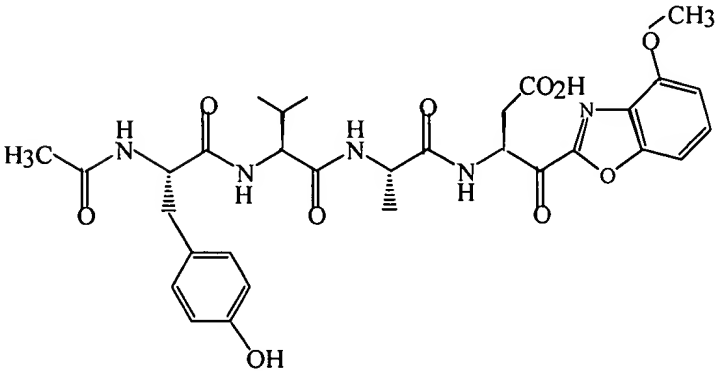
;

(R)



;

(S)



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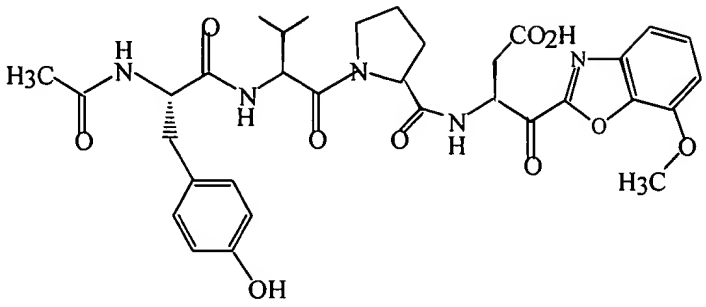
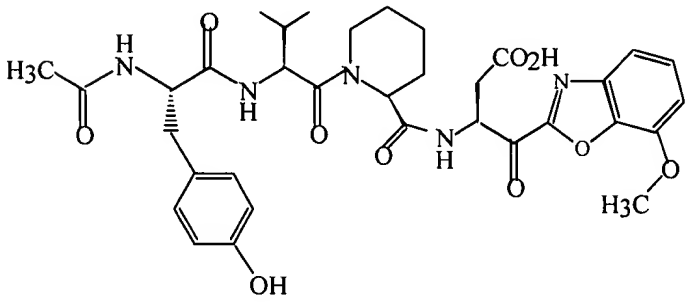
(T)  ; and

(V) 

104. (Original) A compound according to claim 102 wherein each A is independently selected from the group consisting of the α-amino acids:

alanine,

histidine,

lysine,

phenylalanine,

proline,

tyrosine,

valine,

leucine,

isoleucine,

glutamine,

methionine,

homoproline,

3-(2-thienyl) alanine, and

3-(3-thienyl) alanine.

105-124 (Canceled).

125. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a compound according to any one of claims 102-104 and a carrier.

126-128 (Canceled).

129. (Previously presented) The method for inhibiting IL-1β secretion by LPS-stimulated human adherent mononuclear cells comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof a compound according to any one of claims 102-104 for a time and under conditions effective to inhibit interleukin-1β converting enzyme.

130. (Previously Presented) A method for inhibiting IL-1β secretion by LPS-stimulated human peripheral blood monocytes comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof a compound according to any one of claims 102-104 for a time and under conditions effective to inhibit interleukin-1β converting enzyme.

131. (Previously Presented) A method of inhibiting interleukin-1β converting enzyme comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof a compound according to any one of claims 102-104 for a time and under conditions effective to inhibit interleukin-1β converting enzyme.

132. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 131, wherein the mammal is afflicted with a disease selected from the group consisting of septic shock, septicemia, adult respiratory distress syndrome, rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, scleroderma, chronic thyroiditis, Graves' disease, autoimmune gastritis, insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus, autoimmune hemolytic anemia, autoimmune neutropenia, thrombocytopenia, chronic active hepatitis, myasthenia gravis, multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and primary lateral sclerosis.

133. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 131, wherein the mammal is afflicted with an infectious disease.

134. (Previously Presented) A method of inhibiting interleukin-1β converting enzyme comprising administering to a mammal in need of wound healing, a compound according to any one of claims 102-104 for a time and under conditions effective to inhibit interleukin-1β converting enzyme.

135-251 (Canceled).